

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ICELAND: SITUATION BLEAK

A. NATO SYG LUNS VISIT UNSUCCESSFUL...

BOTH EMBASSY REYKJAVIK AND USNATO REPORT THAT NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' SEPTEMBER 16-18 VISIT TO ICELAND GAVE LITTLE HOPE FOR SUCCESSFUL NATO INTERVENTION IN THE INTERCONNECTED UK-ICELAND FISHERIES/ NATO/ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE (IDF) DISPUTE. LUNS TOLD AMBASSADOR IRVIN IN REYKJAVIK THAT BRITISH INTRANSIGENCE ON THE FISHERIES DISPUTE "WILL DRIVE ICELAND OUT OF NATO AND IS MAKING IDF RETENTION DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE." (CONFIDENTIAL) REYKJAVIK 1104 AND USNATO 4401, 9/19.

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B. ...AND ICELANDERS WARN BRITISH

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY REYKJAVIK, THE ICELANDIC CABINET FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 18 ON THE HANDLING OF A BRITISH PROPOSAL TO APPOINT AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH FAULT IN COLLISIONS BETWEEN

BRITISH WARSHIPS AND ICELANDIC COAST GUARD VESSELS. THE SAME DAY, FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON REAFFIRMED THAT THE NEXT RAMMING INCIDENT BY A BRITISH WARSHIP WOULD RESULT IN THE CLOSING OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTURE OF THE DIPLOMATIC STAFF, BUT THE RETENTION OF CONSULAR RELATIONS. (UNCLASSIFIED) REYKJAVIK 1111, 9/19.

2. JAPAN CAUGHT IN OIL BIND

IN A SPEECH SEPTEMBER 17, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES AGENCY OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY REVEALED THAT JAPAN WAS BEING PRESSED BY THE US, THE UK AND THE NETHERLANDS TO FORM AN OIL CONSUMER NATIONS UNION. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT JAPAN MUST MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES AND OPEC. IF THE MAJORS SEEK JAPANESE SUPPORT, JAPAN WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REPLY THAT IT CANNOT SUPPORT EITHER OF THE TWO SIDES. (UNCLASSIFIED) TOKYO 12142, 9/19.

3. NIGERIA VS. US OIL COMPANIES

NIGERIA'S PARTICIPATION NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOBIL AND GULF OIL COMPANIES ARE AT AN APPARENT IMPASSE. THE COMPANIES ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT 35 PERCENT GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION, AS DID SHELL-BP IN JUNE, BUT NIGERIA INSISTS THAT MARKET CONDITIONS NOW JUSTIFY 40 PERCENT. DESPITE THE SEPTEMBER 30 TARGET DATE, EMBASSY LAGOS SUSPECTS THE ISSUE WILL BE VERY MUCH ALIVE WHEN GENERAL GOWON VISITS THE US IN EARLY OCTOBER. (CONFIDENTIAL) LAGOS 7631, 9/19.

4. SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS REACT TO HUSSEIN'S AMNESTY

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EMBASSY AMMAN REPORTS THAT HUSSEIN'S GENERAL AMNESTY FOR THE FEDAYEEN APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A LESS THAN FAVORABLE REACTION IN KUWAIT AND RIYADH. THE KUWAITIS ARE PURPORTEDLY ANGRY AT THE AMNESTY SINCE THEY HAD VIRTUALLY DECIDED TO SURRENDER TO SAUDI ARABIA THE FIVE TERRORISTS WHO HIT THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN PARIS. ACCORDING TO SAUDI PRINCE MUHAMMAD AL-FANOR WHO IS CURRENTLY IN

AMMAN, THE KUWAITIS ARE NOW CERTAIN TO FREE THE FEDAYEEN.
(CONFIDENTIAL) AMMAN 5044, 9/19. RUSH

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